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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

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SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, March 16-31, 2005

1. (U) In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following news articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial local FSN translation.

2. (U) Published on Monday, March 21 by Milliyet, <http://www.milliyet.com>:

TITLE: Annually 1.2 Million Children Are Being Sold

BEGIN TEXT: (Vienna) The OSCE based in Vienna announced that annually 1.2 million children are sold worldwide. Helga Konrad, OSCE special envoy for following human trafficking, stated that the number of children sold in particular in eastern European countries doubled in the last three years.

Konrad noted that 30 percent of the victims of human traffickers who operate worldwide were children and

that the sold children were used as cheap labor in the fields of agriculture, mining, domestic work and prostitution.

Doottridge (the paper did not identify who he/she was) said that some of the sold children were forced to serve as beggars and some others were employed in small-scale organized crime. END TEXT.

3. (U) Published on Friday, March 18 by Almaty Karavan:

TITLE: Paper Criticizes Suspected Human Trafficker's Release on Bail

BEGIN FBIS TRANSLATED TEXT: The Almaty garrison's military prosecutor has released on bail a senior lieutenant who is suspected of organizing trafficking of women abroad. A source told us that the suspect had tried to justify his activity recruiting girls to Turkey, saying that it was for undercover work. However, having studied the portfolios of recruited girls, the military police came to the conclusion that none of them suited the role of undercover radio operator.

The military specialist was detained on 18 February. When the suspect had been detained, he tried to buy his freedom for 105,000 tenge (about 800 dollars) and 210 dollars. But the police refused to take the money from him and brought additional charges against him for attempted bribery.

Later it turned out that the senior lieutenant was not an ordinary military officer but an employee of the Defense Ministry's chief intelligence department, the head of a special group.

The case caused an international scandal. The Turkish special services arrested other individuals in Istanbul who were suspected of recruiting prostitutes. However, now thanks to the fact that now he has been released on bail, the suspect can destroy all traces of his suspicious activity. END TEXT.

4. (U) Published Wednesday, March 16 by the semi-official Turkish-language Anatolian News Agency:

BEGIN TEXT: Three people, including one police officer, were detained in Istanbul on charges of forcing prostitution on women coming to Turkey from Kyrgyzstan with employment promises. Arrest decision in absentia was issued on two people (including one police officer).

According to information obtained by AA correspondent, Kyrgyz nationals Dina J. and Gulanda S. and police officer A.T. who brought Gulzade M., Dinara A., Nazgul T., Roza R. and Zinagul T. to Turkey with the promises that they will find jobs, then threatened them and forced them for prostitution. Kyrgyz nationals Dina J. and Gulanda S. and police officer A.T. were detained.

It was learned that Dina J. and Gulanda S. forced these five women for prostitution for a while and then sent them to Kucukcekmece district to Fahriye B., who is known to be a "women trafficker" along with the police officer A.S. who she lives with.

Upon the complaint of the Kyrgyz women who were forced into prostitution by Fahriye B. and police officer A.S. as well, the Foreigners Police got activated and launched an operation.

Police officer A.T., Dina J. and Gulanda S. were sent to the Istanbul Public Prosecutor's office and then at the court they were taken, arrested, and imprisoned on charges of "human trafficking and forcing for prostitution."

Arrest decision in absentia was issued on other police officer A.S. and Fahriye B. END TEXT.

EDELMAN